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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# *Memorandum*

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: July 19, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Bishop

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

James Earl Ray was returned to the United States today on a U. S. Air Force plane in the custody of FBI Agents and was turned over to the Sheriff's Office of Shelby County (Memphis), Tennessee, early this morning. This mission was completed without incident.

The extradition order was signed by the British Home Secretary at 6 p.m., London time, 7/18/68 (1 p.m., Washington, D. C., time).

The Air Force plane departed London at 7:38 p.m., Washington, D. C., time, 7/18/68, and touched down at the Naval Air Station in Memphis, Tennessee, at 4:37 a.m., Washington, D. C., time, 7/19/68. The subject was afforded a physical examination by the Air Force flight surgeon aboard the aircraft, was processed by the Customs Inspector and Ray was then turned over to the custody of Sheriff William M. Morris of the Shelby County (Memphis), Tennessee, Sheriff's Office.

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The subject was then transported in an armored van preceded by three Sheriff's Office cars and followed by three additional Sheriff's Office cars. The party escorting the prisoner left the Naval Air Station at Memphis at 5:07 a.m., Washington, D. C., time, and Ray was incarcerated in the Shelby County Jail at 5:32 a.m., Washington, D. C., time. The transportation of the subject from Great Britain to the Naval Air Station in Memphis and from thence to the jail was accomplished without incident.

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Enclosures (2)

EJM:cs/mls

SENT DIRECT

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Memo Rosen to DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

According to SA Harold Light, who was in charge of the FBI escort crew, Ray was no problem on the plane, was docile and although food and drink was offered to him, he declined to eat or drink. No effort was made to interview him and he volunteered no information. Just prior to touchdown in Memphis Ray complained of having a headache, the Air Force doctor was notified and he provided Ray a couple of aspirins. The Air Force flight surgeon, after giving Ray a physical examination on departure from England and arrival in Memphis, stated that he was in good physical condition.

The original proposed press release (copy attached) was discussed with Cliff Sessions, Departmental Public Information Officer, on 7/18/68 and he insisted the release be discussed with Assistant Attorney General Vinson and the Attorney General. Vinson and the Attorney General instructed that the press release be shortened and the names of the Attorney General and the Director be omitted in order to, as they stated, play the release in a lower key. Appropriate action, however, was taken by the Crime Records Division on conferring with our news contacts in making an extensive dissemination to the news media of the attached approved release at 5:34 a.m., Washington time, today, 7/19/68. The release was also furnished to the Memphis Office.

Letters have been prepared for the White House and the Attorney General advising them of the successful completion of this mission.

ACTION:

For information.